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CLAIMS

The claimed invention is:

1   1.   A method for obtaining a travel time, comprising the steps
2   of:
3   (a)   requesting a search category from a user;
4   (b)   obtaining a plurality of locations in the search category
5   which are within a selected area;
6   (c)   computing a first travel time from a first location to a
7   second location in the plurality of locations; and,
8   (d)   storing the first travel time and respective first location.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2   computing a second travel time from the first location to a third
3   location in the plurality of locations; and,
4   sorting the first travel time and second travel time by ascending
5   order.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the search category is
2   restaurants and the first location is a first restaurant.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the search category is gas
2   stations and the first location is a gas station.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2   expanding the selected area.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   determining whether a preselected number of locations have

3   respective travel times computed.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   estimating the first travel time by dividing a distance from the first

3   location to the second location by a maximum speed; and,

4   determining whether the estimated first time is less than a

5   predetermined limit.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step includes

2   searching a database for a plurality of locations within a selected

3   geographical area.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the requesting step further

2   includes prompting a user on a cellular phone display.

1   10.   A method for obtaining a travel time, comprising the steps

2   of:

3   (a)   requesting a search category from a user;

4   (b)   obtaining a plurality of locations in the search category

5   which are within a selected area;

6   (c)   determining whether the selected area should be expanded

7   based upon the plurality of locations;

8   (d)   estimating a first travel time by dividing the distance from

9   the first location to the second location by a maximum speed;

10   (e)   determining whether the estimated first travel time is less

11   than a predetermined limit;

12   (f)   computing a first travel time from a first location to a

13   second location in the plurality of locations;

14   (g)   storing the first travel time and respective first location;

15   (h)   computing a second travel time from a first location to a

16   third location in the plurality of locations; and,

17   (i)   sorting the first travel time with the second travel time

18   based upon ascending values.

1   11.   A system for obtaining a minimum travel time from an

2   origin to a first location, comprising:

3   (a)   a communication device for inputting a user selected

4   category and receiving a first location, from the user selected category,

5   having the minimum travel time;

6   (b)   a transmitter/receiver, coupled to the communication

7   device, for receiving the user selected category and transmitting the

8   first location; and,

9   (c)   a processing device, coupled to the transmitter/receiver, for

10   computing the minimum travel time.

1   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the communication device

2   is a cellular telephone.

1   13.   The system of claim 11, wherein the category is a

2   restaurant category.

1   14.   The system of claim 11, wherein the processing device is

2   a computer.

1   15.   The system of claim 11, further comprising:

2   (d)   a persistence storage device, coupled to the processing

3   device, for storing map information.

1   16.   An article of manufacture having a computer readable

2   medium, comprising:

3   (a)   a first software program for obtaining a user selected

4   category;

5   (b)   a second software program for obtaining a plurality of

6   locations in the user selected category within a

7   predetermined area surrounding the location of the user;

8   (c)   a third software program for computing the travel time

9   from the user location to the respective plurality of

10   locations;

11   (d)   a fourth software program for sorting the plurality of

12   locations based on the respective travel times; and,

13   (e)   a fifth software program for providing the sorted plurality

14   of locations and respective travel times to the user.